



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

BULLETIN
OF THE
TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB.

Vol. VII.]

New York, April, 1880.

[No. 4.]

§ 32. **Proceedings of the Torrey Club.**—The regular monthly meeting of the Club was held at the "Herbarium," Columbia College, Tuesday evening, April 13, the President, twenty-eight members, and eight visitors being present.

Mr. Leggett announced the death of Mr. C. F. Austin, an esteemed member of the Club, and called attention to the destitute condition of his family. On motion it was resolved to purchase from the widow a set of the *Musci Appalachiani* and *Hepaticae Boreali-Americanae*.

Mr. Britton of the Herbarium Committee announced the receipt from Mr. A. Brown of 250 specimens of ballast plants, collected in New York city and vicinity.

Prof. D. S. Martin exhibited and remarked upon a section of the trunk of a tree fern. Remarks upon the structure of the same were also made by Mr. Jos. Schrenck.

Prof. A. Wood exhibited the fruit of *Rhus diversiloba*, T. & G., from California, and of *Sapindus marginatus*, Willd., from Southern Kansas—the latter being a hitherto unreported habitat for this plant.

Dr. Kunze exhibited a specimen of *Eucalyptus globulus*, consisting of leaves and flower buds, and made explanatory remarks thereon.

Mr. Gerard exhibited a monstrous specimen of *Sophora Arizonica*, Wats., from Texas, in which the peduncle was flattened and spread out in a fan-like manner at its extremity.

Mr. Bicknell read a paper entitled "Notes on the Flora of Riverdale, N. Y."

Prof. D. S. Martin read a communication from Mr. Jno. M. Batchelder, of Boston, on the "Influence of Electricity upon the Growth of Plants." The author sowed "pepper-grass" seeds on cotton floating on the surface of distilled water contained in two tumblers. One of the tumblers was insulated, and in it was placed a coiled copper wire the other extremity of which communicated with a revolving belt. Both tumblers were placed under the same conditions of light and heat. It was found that the electricity retarded both the germination of the seeds and the subsequent growth of the plants to a remarkable degree. At the conclusion of his experiments Mr. Batchelder discovered that while the roots of the plants in the non-electrified water were growing normally, those submitted to the action of electricity were twisted and coiled in an intricate manner among the fibres of the cotton.

Prof. A. Wood read a paper on "Some Points in Botanical Terminology" wherein he advocated that the terms ordinarily in vogue to designate the venation of leaves should, for philosophical reasons, be discarded; and that in their stead should be substituted the term "midvein" for the principal axis of venation, or prolongation

of the petiole; "veins" for the divisions (if any) of the petiole; "veinlets" for the primary branches sent off from the midvein or veins; and "veinulets" for the secondary branches sent off from the veinlets.

Mr. Bicknell stated that the total number of plants observed by him in flower this year up to date was thirty-five.

Prof. Wood reported that he had received from Dr. E. C. Howe a specimen of *Carex Sullivantii*, Boot, collected near the Croton aqueduct at Yonkers.

M. W. Van Denburg, M. D., of New York City, was elected an active member, and two new names were proposed for membership.

§ 33. **Coe F. Austin.**—This well-known botanist died on the 18th of March, 1880, at his home, Closter, New Jersey, where he was born on the 20th of June 1831. His health had been failing for a year, but the close was rather sudden.

After completing his education at Rankin's Pinkerton Academy, Austin, who was endowed with the true mind of a naturalist, devoted his time to the study of Chemistry and Botany. Becoming soon most interested in Botany, he accepted the position of Curator of the herbarium of Columbia College, but abandoned it to give his whole time to the study of the Mosses and Hepaticae, and to the search for and collection of these plants.

Without a sufficient supply of books, but with an incomparable perseverance, he soon became an adept in this department of botanical science, and, helped by Sullivant and other American bryologists, he was able to prepare the publication of his first work on Mosses.

As a collector, Austin pursued his explorations with indomitable energy and remarkable success, enriching the American flora with a large number of species, either new or as yet undiscovered in this country. The first work of his, the *Musci Appalachiani*, is a collection of 450 specimens, raised to 550 by a supplement in 1878, representing above four hundred species, the rest being varieties not less valuable to students.*

Mr. Austin contributed in 1869, an article to the Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, containing 47 species of Hepaticae. After which time appeared his *Hepaticae Boreali-Americanae* which comprised 150 specimens, 30 of which were varieties, and 15 species previously published.

Work of this kind can be performed only by true devotion to science. It demands a prodigious amount of research in the field for procuring the specimens, and an arduous labor to separate the species, (for mosses mostly grow mixed together) and then for the determination of each specimen, which has generally to be done by microscopical examination. It is therefore easy to understand

* This work is the more valuable since nothing else of that kind can now be obtained for American Bryology, as no copies of the *Musci Alleghanienses* by Sullivant, nor of the *Musci Exsiccati*, by Sulliv. & Lesq., are left for sale. The few copies of the *Musci Appalachiani* which, if I am well-informed, have been left by Austin will soon be disposed of. The same remarks are applicable to his other important work—the *Hepaticae Boreali-Americanae*.